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Message Text

SECRET

44
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
---------- 078231
O P 201702Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5629
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 ATHENS 7335

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR PFOR GR US
SUBJECT: US-GREEK BASE NEGOTIATIONS - GREEK RESPONSE
ON MAJOR QUESTIONS

REF: A. ATHENS 7268; B. STATE 177793;
C. STATE 177222; D. STATE 177221

1. CALOGERAS MET WITH STEARNS THIS AFTERNOON TO CONVEY GREEK POSITIONS ON SEVEN MAJOR ISSUES REMAINING OPEN AFTER WASHINGTON DISCUSSIONS WHICH WERE THE SUBJECT OF AMBASSADOR KUBISCHS DEMARCHE TO BITSIOS JULY 17 (REFTELS A AND C). CALOGERAS EMPHASIZED THAT GREEK POSITION ON THESE ISSUES HAD BEEN REVIEWED BY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WHICH HAD AGREED TO CERTAIN MODIFICATIONS WHICH GREEK GOVT HOPED WMULD CONTRIBUTE TO EARLY SIGNATURE OF US-GREEK DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT. FOLLOWING ARE MODIFIED GREEK POSITIONS ON MAJOR ISSUES AS ADDRESSED BY CALOGERAS.

2. INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES. GREEK MILITARY REPRESENTATIVES WHO HAD ACCOMPANIED CALOGERAS TO THE US WERE NOT REPEAT NOT ENTIRELY SATISFIED THAT THE EQUIPMENT WE WERE OFFERING THE GREEK GOVT TO CREATE A NATIONAL ELINT CAPABILITY WAS COMPLETELY SUITABLE TO GREEK NEEDS. CALOGERAS SAID THAT HE WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE DETAILS BUT UNDERSTOOD FROM KOURIS THAT THE GREEK MILITARY
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BELIEVED THAT EQUIPMENT USED BY THE US NAVY WAS BETTER

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ADAPTED TO GREEK CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS THAN THE
US AIR FORCE EQUIPMENT WE WERE OFFERING. KOURIS HAD
RAISED A NUMBER OF SPECIFIC QUESTIONS WITH NSA REPRE-
SENTATIVES AND CALOGERAS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE ANSWERS
TO THESE QUESTIONS WOULD BE FORTHCOMING THIS WEEK.
ASSUMING THAT GREEK CONCERNS ABOUT THE SUITABILITY
OF EQUIPMENT WERE SATISFIED, CALOGERAS SAID THAT THE
GREEK GOVT SUGGESTED THAT US PRE-CONDITIONS BE
MET IN THE FOLLOWING WAY:

A. REQUIREMENT FOR US-ONLY OPERATIONS AREAS AT IRAKLION
AND HELLENIKON. THE GREEK GOVT BELIEVED THAT A SOLUTION
COULD BE FOUND BY IMPLEMENTING THE PROCES VERBAL
ALONG LINES DISCUSSED IN WASHINGTON BY KOURIS AND NSA
REPRESENTATIVE FINK. SPECIFICALLY, AT GOURNES (IRAKLION)
AGREEMENT WOULD BE REACHED THAT GREEK PERSONNEL AUTHORIZED
TO PARTICIPATE IN SHARING INFORMATION REGARDING COMMON
THREAT TARGETS WOULD ALSO BE PERMITTED TO OVERSEE OR
MONITOR THE FREQUENCIES USED BY US PERSONNEL IN
ACTIVITIES NOT REPEAT NOT DIRECTED AGAINST COMMON
THREAT TARGETS. A LIMITED AGREEMENT OF THIS KIND,
CALOGERAS BELIEVED, WOULD ALLAY ANY CONCERN ON THE
GREEK SIDE THAT GREECE ITSELF WAS BEING TARGETED
WITHOUT INTERFERING IN US COLLECTION ACTIVITIES
UNRELATED TO GREEK DEFENSE NEEDS.

B. US FLIGHT OPERATIONS IN NORTHERN AEGEAN AGAINST
MUTURAL THREAT TARGETS. AFTER CAREFUL RECONSIDERATION
OF GREEK POSITION, COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HAD DECIDED
NOT TO INSIST THAT GREEK OBSERVER FLY IN US
AIRCRAFT. THE GREEK GOVT WAS STILL CONSIDERING
ITS POSITION ON PERMITTING US TO RESUME FLIGHTS OVER
THE NORTHERN AEGEAN IN THE INTERIM PERIOD PRIOR TO THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GREEK AIRBORNE RECONNAISSANCE
CAPABILITY. THE PRINCIPAL CONSIDERATION FOR THE GREEK
GOVT WAS THAT GREEK NATIONAL SECURITY NOT
BE JEOPARDIZED BY SUCH RESUMPTION.

C. SHARING OF INFORMATION ACQUIRED BY GREECE AGAINST
MUTUAL THREAT TARGETS. WHEN THE NATIONAL GREEK
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CAPABILITY HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED, CALOGERAS REAFFIRMED
THAT THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEM IN SHARING WITH US
ALL INFORMATION COLLECTED AGAINST MUTUAL THREAT TARGETS.

3. HELLENIKON. REGARDING AGREED US FORCE LEVELS AT
HELLENIKON AND RELOCATION OF DEPENDENT SUPPORT ACTIVITIES,
CALOGERAS SAID THAT GREEKPOSITION REMAINED THE SAME.
US WOULDHAVE TO REDUCE ITS PRESENCE AT HELLENIKON TO

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1050 LEVEL ANDNRELOCATE ALL DEPENDENT SUPPORT ACTIVITIES
EXCEPT BASE HOSPITAL. STEARNS NOTED THAT A NEW ELEMENT
HAD BEEN INTRODUCED INTO CALCULATIONS ON HELLENIKON.
GREEK GOVT HAD RECENTLY ANNOUNCED FIRM DECISION
TO CLOSE HELLENIKONAND REPLACE IT WITH NEW INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT AT SPATA. WHILE TIMING OF THIS MOVE WAS STILL
UNCLEAR, IT HAD ALSO BEEN REPORTED THAT HELLENIC AIR
FORCE BASE AT HELLENIKON WOULD MOVE OUT OF HELLENIKON
BEFORE COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS TERMINATED THERE. FROM
A PRACTICAL STANDPOINT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE US
AIR FORCE TO UNDERTAKE A PROGRAM OFRELOCATION UNTIL
GREEK PLANS WERE FIRM. THE GREEK GOVT COULD NOT EXPECT
US TO MOVE OUT OF HELLENIKON UNTIL WE KNEW
WHAT THE GREEKS HAD IN MIND. CALOGEAAS ACKNOW-
LEDGED THAT THE US HAD A LEGITIMATE INTEREST
IN KNOWING THE FUTURE OF THE GREEK BASE AT HELLENIKON
BEFORE MAKING CONCRETE DECISIONS ON RELOCATION AND HE
UNDERTOOK TO CHECK WITH THE HELLENIC AIR FORCE ON THIS
POINT. HE EMPHASIZED HOWEVER THAT THE GREEK GOVT STOOD
FIRM ON THE PRINCIPLE OF REDUCTION IN THE US
PRESENCE AT HELLENIKONAND RELOCATION OF DEPENDENT
SUPPORT ACTIVITIES ELSEWHERE IN THE ATHENS AREA.

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
---------- 078609
O P 201702Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5630
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 ATHENS 7335

EXDIS

4. SOUDA. THE GREEK GOVERNMENT WAS NOT ABLE
TO ACCOMMODATE OUR REQUEST FOR UTILIZATION
OF SOUDA AIRFIELD BY LIMITED NUMBERS OF US TACTICAL
AIRCRAFT. COUNCIL OF MINISTERS BELIEVED THAT THIS

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WOULD CHANGE THE CHARACTER OF THE FACILITY AND COULD
NOT MODIFY THE GREEK POSITION IN THIS
REGARD. CALOGERAS SAID THAT, AS HE AND HIS MILITARY
COLLEAGUES HAD INDICATED IN WASHINGTON, THE GREEKS
WERE PREPARED TO SHOW FLEXIBILITY REGARDING UTILIZATION
OF SOUDA BY OTHER TYPES OF US AIRCRAFT INCLUDING
HELICOPTERS.

5. NEA MAKRI AND DCS. CALOGERAS SAID THAT THE GREEKS
WERE "VERY DISAPPOINTED" THAT THE US WAS UNABLE TO
PROVIDE FUNDING ABOVE THE $700 MILLION TO COVER ESTI-
MATED COSTS OF $12 MILLION FORTWO LOW-FREQUENCY HELLENIC
NAVY CIRCUITS AT NEA MAKRI AND $30 MILLION FOR DCS
CIRCUITS LINKING THE AEGEAN ISLANDS. IN THE FACE OF
US INSISTENCE THAT WE COULD NOT FUND THESE GREEK
FACILITIES ABOVE THE $700 MILLION CEILING, THE GREEK
GOVT WAS "RELUCTANTLY" WITHDRAWING ITS REQUEST
FOR SPECIAL FUNDING. CALOGERAS SAID HOWEVER THAT THE
GREEKS HOPED THAT UNDER FMS IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE WITH
USG HELP TO OBTAIN THE EQUIPMENT AT THE LOWEST POSSIBLE
PRICE, HOPEFULLY A PRICE SUBSTANTIALLY BELOW THE ESTI-
MATED TOTAL COST OF $42 MILLION. GOG WOULD APPRECIATE
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OBTAINING AN ESTIMATE FROM WASHINGTON AGENCIES ON THE
CHEAPEST POSSIBLE PRICE AT WHICH IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE
FOR THE GOG, WITH US ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE IN PROCUREMENT,
TO CONSTRUCT TWO LF CIRCUITS AT NEA MAKRI AND HELLENIC
MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS LINKING THE AEGEAN ISLANDS.
STEARNS SAID THAT HE WOULD CONVEY THIS GREEK REQUEST
TO WASHINGTON ALTHOUGH HE COULD NOT OF COURSE SAY
WHETHER COSTS LOWER THAN $42 MILLION WERE FEASIBLE.

6. PARITY IN PROCUREMENT. CALOGERAS SAID THAT GREEK
GOVT WAS STILL CONSIDERING THE PROPOSED US TEXT
AND WAS COMPARING IT WITH THE TEXT OF ASSURANCES PROVIDED
BY THE US TO THE TURKISH GOVT AS CONTAINED IN THE
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. CALOGERAS WAS HOPEFUL THAT THIS
ISSUE COULD BE RESOLVED WITHOUT UNDUE DIFFICULTY.

7. UNILATERAL SUSPENSION. AFTER FURTHER CONSIDERATION
GREEK SIDE WAS PREPARED TO ACCEPT THE PRINCIPLE OF ORAL
ASSURANCES AND TO RELINQUISH ITS DEMAND FOR WRITTEN
ASSURANCES. THE PROBLEM COULD BE RESOLVED IN THE TERMS
IN WHICH IT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED BY CALOGERAS WITH ASSISTANT
SECY HARTMAN, NAMELY, BY A STATEMENT MADE BY THE
US REPRESENTATIVE AT THE TIME OF SIGNATURE OF THE DCA
THAT "SHOULD A GREEK NATIONAL EMERGENCY RESULT IN THE
NEED TO SUSPEND THE ACTIVITIES OF THE US FORCES
IN GREECE, THE US WOULD RECOGNIZE THAT THIS WAS WITHIN

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THE SOVEREIGN RIGHTS OF GREECE." GREEK GOVERNMENT
UNDERSTOOD THAT SUCH A STATEMENT WOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL.
THE GREEK GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT ITSELF REFER TO THE
STATEMENT PUBLICLY ALTHOUGH THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD
FEEL FREE IN PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE TO PUT ON THE RECORD
HIS OWN VIEWS ONTHE RIGHT OF UNILATERAL SUSPENSION
AND WOULD EXPECT THAT ANY STATEMENT MADE BY HIM WOULD
N? ?3 :9,54-$8:TED BY US SPOKESMAN AS LONG AS
IT WAS CONSISTENT WITH OUR ORAL UNDERTAKING AND THE
OBSENSE OF ARTICLE XVIII WHICH WE HAD REFUSED TO ACCEPT
IN THE ORIGINAL GREEK DRAFT OF THE DCA. CALOGERAS
ADDED THAT HE UNDERSTOODTHAT WE WOULD OURSELVES
ADVISE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF THE CONGRESS OF
THE CONFIDENTIAL ORAL ASSURANCES WE WOULD BE PROVIDING.

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8. COMMUNICATIONS JOINT-USE PLAN. CALOGERAS SAID THAT
THE GREEK SIDE WAS PREPARING ITS DRAFT FOR THE JOINT-USE
PLAN FOR THE DCS. HE AGREED WITH STEARNS THAT THIS NEED
NOT TAKE THE FORM OF AN ADDITIONAL APPENDIX
TO THE DCA AND SAID THAT THE GREEK S WOULD SUBMIT THEIR
IDEAS ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE JOINT-USE PLAN COULD
BE COVERED IN AN EXCHANGE OF NOTES. HE THOUGHT THAT
THE GREEK DRAFT WOULD BE READY IN TIME FOR IT TO BE
CONSIDERED WHEN TALKS WERE RESUMED IN ATHENS, HOPEFULLY
NEXT WEEK.

9. LASTLY, CALOGERAS SAID THAT HE HOPED THAT
THE FOREGOING MODIFICATIONS IN THE GREEK POSITION
ON MAJOR ISSUES WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO PERMIT
NEGOTIATIONS TO BE RESUMED O MONDAY, JULY 26. HE
THOUGHT PERSONALLY THAT THE REMAINING DIFFERENCES
WERE BRIDGABLE AND THAT WE MIGHT BE IN A POSITION
TO INITIAL AN AGREEMENT BY THE FIRST WEEK OF AUGUST.
STEARNS COMMENTED THAT ALTHOUGH WE WERE INCHING OUR
WAY FORWARD, THERE WERE STILL DIFFICULT PROBLEMS BOTH
OF PRINCIPLE AND DETAIL TO BE RESOLVED. HE WOULD
HOWEVER CONVEY GREEK VIEWS PROMPTLY TO WASHINGTON
AND OBTAIN REACTION OF WASHINGTON AGENCIES TO THEM
AS WELL AS TO THE FEASIBILITY OF RESUMING NEGOTIATIONS
ON JULY 26.

10. COMMENT: PRIOR TO DISCUSSION REPORTED ABOVE,
STEARNS PASSED TO CALOGERAS OUR PROPOSED WORDING FOR
ARTICLE IX, PARA 1, OF THE COMMAND AND CONTROL
APPENDIX (AS TRANSMITTED REFTEL B). CALOGERAS SAID
THAT GREEK SIDE WOULD STUDY US FORMULATION CAREFULLY
AND LET US KNOW THEIR REACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
KUBISCH

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